

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office action dated April 4, 2003 are respectfully requested. Applicants petition the Commissioner for a 2-month extension of time. A separate petition accompanies this amendment.

I. Amendments

Claims 15, 16, and 18 are amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

No new subject matter has been added by way of these amendments.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 15-18 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner had five specific objections which are set forth and addressed below.

1. Rejection of Claim 15: The Examiner objected to the language "said cultured TGF-blocking agent-treated stem cell" allegedly for antecedent basis. Applicants note that claim 15, as amended, provides proper antecedent basis for the language.

2. Rejection of Claim 16: The Examiner objected to the language "said enriched stem cell composition" allegedly for antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claim 16 to clarify that it is "said enriched stem cell population", which finds proper antecedent basis in claim 15.

3. Rejection of Claim 18: The Examiner objected to the language "wherein the linkage is the phosphorodiamidate" allegedly for antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claim 18 to recite "a phosphorodiamidate".

4. Rejection of Claim 19: The Examiner objected to claim 19 allegedly for depending from a canceled claim. Applicants note that claim 19 was cancelled with Applicants Response mailed January 17, 2003.

5. Rejection of Claim 20: Applicants have cancelled claim 20.

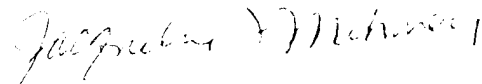
In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claim pending in the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 838-4410.

Respectfully submitted,



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